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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,888	08/26/2003	George Vais	VAIG103	4868
7590	06/28/2004		EXAMINER	
DEREK H. MAUGHAN				THOMSON, MICHELLE R
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BOISE, ID 83701-0877				
				ART UNIT
				PAPER NUMBER
				3641

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/648,888	VAIS, GEORGE
	Examiner Michelle (Shelley) Thomson	Art Unit 3641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as necessitated by applicant's amendments.
2. With regard the applicant's amendment to the specification, it is noted that while applicant corrected some of the deficiencies noted in the previous action, the specification should be reviewed carefully to correct all deficiencies. For example, applicant amended paragraph 38 to correctly identify "locknut 140" but applicant failed to consistently change the piece 130 to "gas ring adapter" in both instances. Furthermore in paragraph 36, applicant changed piece 130 to "gas ring adapter" except for one instance. Reference 130 continues to refer to parts with various names throughout the specification and should be amended in each instance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swan (US Patent # 6,499,245). Swan discloses an assembly system comprising a connection sleeve (reference 170) defining a generally longitudinal bore extending from a first end along a longitudinal axis to a second end, and having a portion that has the ability to connect with a rifle barrel receiver and a

portion having the ability to connect with the rifle barrel and the ability (retaining means) to maintain the rifle barrel within the connection sleeve; a stabilizing device having the ability to prevent axial rotation of the connection sleeve (reference 162); and a locking device (reference 164) having an infinite number of locking positions (inasmuch as applicant has disclosed an infinite number of locking positions as the locking device is threaded onto the connection sleeve) having the ability to hold the stabilizing device in a desired position. The system further comprising a gas tube stabilizing device/means having a portion that has the ability to receive a portion of a gas tube therein and having the ability (stabilizing means) to prevent rotation of the gas tube stabilizing device about the longitudinal axis (column 5, lines 13-27).

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris (US Patent # 4,765,224). Morris discloses an assembly system comprising a connection sleeve (reference 44) defining a generally longitudinal bore extending from a first end along a longitudinal axis to a second end, and having a portion that has the ability to connect with a rifle barrel receiver and a portion having the ability to connect with the rifle barrel and the ability (retaining means) to maintain the rifle barrel within the connection sleeve; a stabilizing device having the ability to prevent axial rotation of the connection sleeve (reference 56); and a locking device (reference 38) having an infinite number of locking positions (inasmuch as applicant has disclosed an infinite number of locking positions as the locking device is threaded onto the connection sleeve) having the ability to hold the stabilizing device in a desired position. The system further comprising a gas tube stabilizing device/means having a portion that has the ability to receive a portion of a gas tube therein and having the ability (stabilizing means) to prevent rotation of the gas tube stabilizing device about the longitudinal axis (Figure 6).

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle (Shelley) Thomson whose telephone number is 703.306.4176. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 703.306.5752. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mrt



Brian M. Speer